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those whom he has interviewed, and his success in keeping in the background whatever views he himself may hold. At the same time he will feel a growing discouragement in regard to the possibility of reaching something like a consensus of opinion on *la question sociale*.

I. W. HOWERTH.

Domestic Service. By LUCY MAYNARD SALMON. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1897. 8vo, pp. 307.

THERE are few phases of the labor problem about which people profess to know so much and in reality know so little as about domestic service. In every community there are many good people who seem to think that years of personal experience, no matter how restricted in character, give them the right to have very fixed views as to possible methods of improving household labor in general. A company of women seldom assembles without attempting an argument in behalf of one or more so-called solutions of the problem. It is true, indeed, that no unusual experience is required to show that the problem is a real one which faces every householder in a most practical way. The urgent need which exists makes the fact the more strange that Miss Salmon's work is the first serious attempt to deal with the subject in a truly scientific spirit.

That she is a pioneer in this field is evident from the author's own prefatory words, in which she sets forth the purpose of the book. With the end in view of tabulating and presenting "facts which may afford a broader basis for general discussion than has been possible without them," and with the hope that writers on economic theory and economic conditions will include domestic service in their scientific investigations of various industries, Miss Salmon has drawn from many sources a large amount of historical and economic material which she has put together in most readable form. In addition to this she has introduced what she chooses to term a "theoretical" discussion of doubtful and of possible remedies. The reader who expects to find the theoretical views of a closet investigator will be impressed with the large practical knowledge and shrewd common sense which the author shows.

The introductory chapters deal with the historical aspect of the subject. The changes in the amount and character of household labor which have come about through the substitution of the factory

system are clearly set forth, and it is shown that it is no more possible to revert to the old condition of domestic employment than to the ancient industrial system as a whole.

The economic study of the problem suggests to the author the following conclusions: the conformity of wages in domestic service to certain general economic laws; the fact that the wage factor alone does not determine the number of persons in the occupation; and the existence of a few conditions which affect, perhaps unconsciously, the willingness of women to engage in this work. The logical result of such a study is repeatedly indicated by the author, who maintains that it is absolutely impossible for the individual employer to settle from an exclusively personal point of view the many questions which arise. It is pointed out that the difficulties in the path of both employer and employee will not only never be removed, but will increase until the subject of domestic service is regarded as a part of the great labor question of the day and given the serious consideration it deserves.

A short chapter on "Advantages in Domestic Service" is followed by two long ones on "Industrial Disadvantages of Domestic Service" and "Social Disadvantages." The following are given as the chief industrial disadvantages: the lack of all opportunity for promotion, the great amount of mere mechanical repetition involved, the lack of organization in the service, irregularity in working hours, the limitation of free time evenings and Sundays, competition with the foreign-born and the negro element that seems objectionable to the American born, and the interference with work often by those less skilled than the workers themselves. The social disadvantages, as enumerated by Miss Salmon, seem in many cases so unnecessary that many a conscientious housewife, as she reads them over, will seriously rebuke herself for her thoughtless disregard of the real rights of those in her employ.

The remedies popularly proposed as means of meeting existing difficulties are discussed in the light of general principles—political, economic, industrial, social, and educational—and are shown to be ineffective in so far as they are at variance with these principles. Emphasis is indeed placed by the author on the ethical side of the subject; but the claim is made that this is not sufficient, since the relation between employer and employee can no longer be considered a purely personal one. The utter absurdity of attempting to solve an economic or industrial problem by kindness alone seems fully appar-

ent, and yet a critic of this book has recently stated that "the problem may be left to work itself out under the influence of mutual forbearance and good-will"!

The author, recognizing the existing clamor for a "remedy," tentatively draws the following suggestions from her investigation: that the historical study of the subject points to relief through the removal of the social stigma; that the specialization of household employments, in consequence of the removal of as much work as possible and the removal of the domestic employee as well from the home of the employer, leads to a simpler and better manner of life for both employer and employee; that the introduction of profit sharing is one means of placing household employments on a business basis; that the establishment in connection with one of our great universities of a school of investigation, open only to graduates of the leading reputable colleges, is the only opportunity for the scientific advancement of the household and all questions connected with it; and that, together with the last, a recognition of the necessity for the readjustment of the work of both men and women must result in making any form of housework for remuneration honorable for any person—man or woman.

Domestic service is everywhere made a topic for conversation or gossip. The value of Miss Salmon's work lies largely in showing that it should rather be a subject for scientific investigation and study. It will, however, be many a long year before a book on the subject appears which will be so suggestive in practice and so interesting in theory as is this of Miss Salmon's.

MARION TALBOT.

Industries and Wealth of Nations. By MICHAEL G. MULHALL.
London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1896. 8vo, pp. xii+
451.

"THE principal value of statistics is for purposes of comparison, and they must often cover the debatable ground between ascertained facts and reasonable conjecture." This quotation from Jevons, and one from M. Leroy-Beaulieu to the effect that "we must avoid the absurdity of limiting statistics to ascertained facts, for in many cases this branch of science can reach only approximate results," stand at the beginning of Mr. Mulhall's book, and indicate his conception of the nature of his work. He has endeavored to bring together the